

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 - 14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) An umbrella comprising:
a central axis-defining shaft;
a plurality of ribs having inner ends secured to the shaft and outer ends and movable between a closed position extending axially along the shaft and an open position extending radially from the shaft;
a flexible canopy spanned over the ribs;
an actuator movable axially along the shaft;
respective spreaders made of plastic and each having an outer end pivoted on a respective one of the ribs and an inner end pivotal on the actuator, the canopy and the ribs forming in the open position forming a spring element acting as a damping member that resists inversion and that has a spring strength such that only a sectoral inversion is possible and that it forces an automatic restoration by the damping member when wind pressure drops;
a slide shiftable along one of the ribs adjacent the outer end thereof; and
a brace strut having an outer end pivoted on the slide and an inner end pivoted on the spreader between the inner and outer ends thereof, the brace strut being capable of resisting compression and tension, the plastic ribs being of such elasticity

23 that they bend elastically in the open position and a tension of
24 the canopy on the elastically bent ribs and on the brace struts is
25 such that only a sectoral inversion of ~~the frame with~~ the canopy
26 and the ribs is possible and a complete inversion of the canopy is
27 inhibited circumferentially.

1 16. (previously presented) The umbrella defined in
2 claim 15 wherein a length of each rib between its outer end and its
3 pivotal connection with the outer end of the respective spreader is
4 at least equal to a length of the respective brace strut plus a
5 length of the respective spreader between its pivotal connection
6 with the respective rib and with the respective brace strut.

1 17. (previously presented) The umbrella defined in claim
2 15 wherein the umbrella has a plurality of the brace struts
3 distributed angularly and extending between respective spreaders
4 and the respective ribs.

18. (canceled)

1 19. (previously presented) The umbrella defined in
2 claim 15 wherein the spreaders are made of plastic and have a
3 diameter of 2 to 6 mm.

1 20. (previously presented) The umbrella defined in
2 claim 15 wherein the spreaders are made of plastic and have a
3 diameter 3 to 4 mm.

1 21. (previously presented) The umbrella defined in claim
2 15 wherein the brace struts are made of plastic.

22 and 23. (canceled)

1 24. (previously presented) The umbrella defined in claim
2 15 wherein every other spreader has one such brace strut.

1 25. (previously presented) The umbrella defined in claim
2 15 wherein the slide is formed as a tube engaged around the
3 respective rib and forming a pivot.

26 - 29. (canceled)